

ON THE FAST MAIL.

A Star Reporter's Thousand-Mile Journey in a Postal Car.

A FLYING POST OFFICE.

Hard Work, With But Little Rest for the Crew.

NOTES BY THE WAY.



of the railway mail service is attended with many novel and interesting sights and happenings, but to the average citizen reasonably fond of all the comforts of home a relation of them would propably be more appreciable than the actual experience. So if you would like trip in imagination with a Star

THOUSAND-MILE

who made it in person just brace yourself for a good long spell of heat, dirt, dust, loss of sleep and kindred discomforts, and we will take a spin on the Florida fast mail and realize how hard is the postal The Florida fast mail route properly be-

ring at Boston and ends at Havana, Cuba. It taps a large territory north of Washington, by which it supplies a great area south of the Potomac. The part of the route with which we shall have to do is that lying between Washington city and Charleston, S. C., and the trip will be made on a car which is known as "the Washington and harleston railway post office." This is the ngest run made by any crew in the railway mail service, and it is a heavy and busy one. The round trip made by the crew is 1,000 miles, and the actual time spent in the



We will enter the postal car at 2 o'clock in the morning, at an hour when your system reproaches you bitterly for coming out of your comfortable bed at such a time to undertake a risky journey which may land you in a pine box or a heap of ashes under the wreck of a smashed and burning train, for you might as well know before you start that the postal car is the most dangerous place on the train, not excepting the engine. In every front-end collision or wreck the postal clerks suffer and their car is damaged most. In a collision the postal car is ground to pieces between the upper and nether milistone of the iron tender and locomotive in front and the great weight of the long train behind. The tender crushes in the front of the car and the baggage car telescopes the rear of it, and there you are. However, this is not told you to frighten you out of the trip, but simply to show you the constant and imminent danger which surrounds the railway mail clerks. tem reproaches you bitterly for coming out

lighting the horizon in the east and picking out the dome of the Capitol in black silhouette against the clearing sky, when the New York train rolls in. The postal car is switched into the depot alongside the New York train and coupled to the cars which are to form the southern train. The work of transferring the northern mails to our car then proceeds. Sack after sack and pouch after pouch are thrown in and piled up in the end of the car and the clerks look with dismay upon the prospect before them of handling all that stuff. A stifling cloud of dust arises from the bags, enough to smother a feliow almost.

The transfer completed, the train rolls out of the depot, and, as the sun breaks in full splendor above the crest of Capitol Hill, the train plunges through the fog bank of mist that still hovers over the Long bridge and begins its long journey to Dixie land. Business is lively in the postal car now, for the stations come in quick succession and the mail must be handled quickly. From the New York train there came a pouch labeled Alexandria, and this, with the pouch of Alexandria mail made up at Washington, is placed in the doorway of the car to be dumped. A couple of pouches of mail for way stations in Virginia are taken aboard at Alexandria and this is distributed at once.

trip in a postal car tributed at once.



train, the dust, smoke and cinders that pour through the car, but are taken up with recalling the different routes which they have memorized.

Now we approach the crossing of the Chesapeake and Ohio railway line. There is mail for points along that line east and west of the junction, and that is pouched and dispatched, to be taken up by postal clerks on that line and distributed. Four or five big sacks taken on at this junction increase the work of our clerks. The boys are hustling now, for we are nearing Richmond, the distributing point of several railways. As the train rolls into the station the clerks wipe the grime and perspiration from their faces and regard with complacency several big sacks of mail stacked up in the doorway of the car, the result of their labors. A transfer agent at Richmond takes charge of the sacks and attends to the delivery of them to the different railway lines. Another big load of mail is taken on at Richmond, but the clerks taken on at Richmond, but the clerks taken it bravely. Petersburg is not far away, the crossing of the Norfolk and Western railroad, and there is mail from Richmond to offices east and west on this line.

When the train leaves Petersburg et 10



Our postal car is lying on the side track along 6th street at the Baltimore and Potomac depot. Come in and seat yourself on a pile of empty bags and watch the subsequent proceedings.

Here is a big sixty-foot car, one end of which is fitted up very much like the interior of a small post office; in fact, this is a post office on wheels. There is a case extending around one end of the car studded with pigeon holes for the reception of letters distributed. Back of this, on either side of the car, are rows of mail bags hanging to iron frames, which are to receive papers and heavy mall of that class. Leather to ouches of all sizes are stacked up on the floor, and into these will be put the letter mail when it is ready to be dispatched from the car. The other end of the car is reserved for a storage space which will be occupied with great stacks of mail bags beoccupied with great stacks of mail bags be-fore long.

Soon after 2 o'clock a big van from the city post office drives alongside the car and unloads the mail from Washington for points in Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. There are probably fifteen sacks and pouches, each one of which is labeled with its contents. The five clerks in the postal car, who have been busy up to this time eating a hearty lunch which they brought with them, will have very little opportunity to feed between this and midday—now turn to and tackle the job before them. The sacks destined for the southernmost points are laid aside, to be reached in order, while the Virginia mail is attacked first. is attacked first.

The letters for the various towns along the



The letters for the various towns along the line are pigeon-holed, and the papers sacked. Here the postal clerk brings his wits to work, and must be sharp, quick and accurate. You know that from nearly every little railroad station the mail is carried by contract to interior country post offices, maybe only a few miles from the railroad, or probably on a circuit that takes in a dezen offices. The postal clerk must know at first glance without stopping to look into a book trought from one end of the exactly from what station the mail for the country post offices must be dispatched. He must have at his fingers' ends the location of the thousands of post offices in the five states along his route.

The clerks work with a steady swing, cleaning up bag after bag of mail; the pigeon holes grow fuller and the sacky begin to bulge with their contents, and this goes on until 4:15, when the coming day is

clerk.

Has it ever occurred to you how dependent business men, and everyone else in fact, are upon the accuracy and honesty of these railway mail clerks? Here are letters in this case coming from the north containing money, checks, relating to important business and family matters which are arxiously awaited by thousands of people for whom they are destined. An error or an act of carelessness on the part of one of these men might delay those letters or cause their misdirection and work untold harm and embarrassment to the affairs of others. Yet it seldom happens. How often, in your own case for instance, have your letters miscarried through the fault of the post office? The work of these men is entwined and interlaced with the most important business and social affairs of every person. The interests of the railway mail service and its workers is a personal matter to every man in the country.

But while we are moralizing the train runs into Weldon, N.C., and the passengers pile out to dinner while the postal clerka are busy with dispatching and receiving the mail for the Seaboard and Roanoke railroad. After awhile they will have a little leisure and will get out their lunch basktle leisure and will get out their lunch bask-



ets and take what the southerners call a "snack." From Weldon to Wilmington, half a day's run, there will be something for somebody to do all the time, but it does not require the attention of the entire crew. There is considerable local business occasioned by the small stations along the way and mail must be pouched for three cross lines. sioned by the small stations along the way and small must be pouched for three cross lines.

We are running through the water melon belt now and along toward the cool of the afternoon make a mercantile transaction with a small and very ragged colored boy for a big watermelon pulled that morning with the dew on it, and which has been reposing in a cool place all day. The consideration is only if cents and there is also been reposing in a cool place all day. The consideration is only if cents and there is been consideration is only if cents and there is been consideration is only if cents and there is been reposing in a cool place all day. The consideration is only if cents and there is been consideration is only if cents and there is been reposing in a cool place all day. The consideration is only if cents and there is been reposing in a cool place all day. The consideration is only if cents and there is been reposing in a cool place all day. The consideration is only if cents and there is been reposing in a cool place all day. The consideration is only if cents and there is been reposing in a cool place all day. The consideration is only if cents and there is been reposing in a cool place all day. The consideration is only if cents and there is been reposing in a cool place all day. The consideration is only if cents and there is been reposing in a cool place all day. The consideration is only if cents and there is been reposing in a cool place all day. The consideration is only if the meant the coll that man there is the only way to eat watermelon, and the sit is dependent on the first the end of the car, the cents and the stations and fairly grovel and root into the first the end of the car, the clerk takes in the support the clerk and the water dripping from your system the mail transactions are required to transact this local business, dispatched and received. As a rule, the services of one and the sit up. As the train and others handling the papers and heavy articles. Every man is in a brown study, apparen



A South Carolina Thirst Quencher.

sacks, so that the clerks on the next run

sacks, so that the clerks on the next run can handle it conveniently. The sacks are emptied and placed again in position to receive matter on the up trip. When Charleston is reached at 2:30 a.m. the men pile out of the car and go to their rooms to drop down on the bed and sleep for ten hours the sleep of the exhausted. They have worked for twenty-four hours, and in that time have handled 49,020 letters, 248 sacks of papers, 109 registered packages, 11 registered pouches and 6 registered cases.

Twelve hours after arriving in Charleston this same crew report at the depot for service on the return trip. They come to the car two hours ahead of leaving time in order to distribute the mail originating at Charleston before the arrival of the connecting train bringing the mail from the south. The car is arranged in a different way for the northbound trip, that is, every pouch and pigeon hole is relabeled. The run to Washington is to be ten hours shorter, and very little local business is to be transacted. Mail will be received and dispatched at junctions, but there will be no way station distribution.

The pouches and pigeon holes are labeled with the names of northern cities between Washington and Boston, and along the Hudson river, and others with the names of states in the west and northwest. One section of the letter case is devoted to New York city, and is arranged so that the mail, when it reaches that burgh, is already distributed for the local carriers to handle. Each branch station of the New York city, and is arranged so that the mail, when it reaches that burgh, is already distributed for the local carriers to handle. Each branch station of the New York city, and is arranged so that the mail will find its way to the addresses immediately upon arriving at the city. Mail for the western states will be ready pouched upon the arrival of the train at the connecting junction, and will be dispatched to be properly distributed on other railway post offices.

Leaving Charleston at 4:12 o'clock p. m., the work of the

promotion some day, and will undergo a civil service examination, in which his ability to quickly remember the stations along his route will form the main feature.

You will probably agree with the claim of these men that their work, professional work it is, almost, is very poorly recompensed at salaries of \$800 and \$900 per year. You will think that an ordinary clerk in a department at Washington, who works eight hours a day in safety and comfort, writing or copying, having hardly enough to keep him busy, and in the main performing a duty which seems of little practical value to the people at large, although it is, of course, receives \$1.200, \$1.400 per year. These men, doing a work which is of vital interest to every man in the country, and intrusted with the most sacred business responsibilities, laboring night and day under all manner of hardships and in constant, momentary danger of their lives, draw a salary which is beggarly in its meagreness. They have appealed to Congress time and again, and they probably truthfully say that if Congress could take a run in a railway postal car and suffer a short spell with the clerks they might heed the cry of the oppressed.

When you step from the car on the return to Washington and are asked if you would like another trip of that kind, what will you say?

"No, thank you; once is enough for me."

A CITY LIBRARY.

and has been for years a livery stable. Though a circus, it was also a thester, and a very popular one, as I understand, for it was before my day, but I remember the wild excitement created when the "Cataract of the Ganges" was produced "with real water," the water coming from the spring in the square opposite, which for years supplied that neighborhood. The name of Celeste is very familiar over here, where she was always a great favorite. error is checked against the record of that clerk.

Has it ever occurred to you how depend.

A CITY LIBRARY.



female.

I would plead for some of "Ouida's" books—and, by the bye, I heard a very good story of the late Mrs. John Bigelow's interview with "Ouida." Mrs. Bigelow, while in Florence, called on "Ouida." who resides there, and when her card was presented "Ouida" declined to see her, saying, loud enough for Mrs. Bigelow to hear her, "I am not at home—I hate Americans." Mrs. Bigelow replied: "You ought not to hate us, for we are about the only people who read your nasty books." "Ouida" came forward immediately and apologized for her rudeness, and the interview was mutually agreeable. I met "Ouida" in New York in 1864-1865 and was introduced to her by the late Gen. Kilby Smith. As might be supposed, she is a charming conversationalist. Some of her books are a little "off color," but she has written some beautiful things. "A Leaf in a Storm" and other short stories or sketches are unexceptionable and full of beauty. Mr. Crerar's exclusion of other works that find ready sale is commendable. There would be time enough for expurgation when the library was well under way.

Nothing Like Agitation. Let The Star only ald in the effort made by Mr. Wolcott and the Senate library committee and at the coming regular session the library will become an accomplished fact. Nothing like agritating a subject to secure a desired result. I met Mr. James (Sordon Bennett in 1866, being introduced by the Chevalier Wykoff. There had been and yet unobservant writers and difference between the National Intelligence and the Herald for years, but when, with the late Chaunces Snow, I became one of its proprietors, I did not intelligence and the Herald for years, but when, with the late Chaunces proposed to the provinces of the late of the Let The Star only aid in the effort made

abuse of President Pierce, than whom a more perfect gentleman never filled the presidential chair. All this only to show that the agitation of a subject generally brings success in the end.

That this city, the center of culture, with its Sinithsonian Institution, universities, colleges, and other institutions of learning, should be without a public library is a reproach from which we hope to be delivered by such friends of education and culture as Senators Wolcott, Vorhees and Mills of the library committee of the Senate. We don't expect, in our demand for a city library, to contend with the British Museum nor the Lenox library for rare books. "costing a mint of money." No "Psalmorum Codex."—whatever that is—printed in 1457 at Mentz, by Faust & Schaeffer, and sold at Sir John Thorald's sale in 1881 for 64,500, nor a Mazarine Bible costing 3,000. A modern "Decamerone of Boccaccio" will, if expurgated, do for us, and not one printed in Venice in 1471, and sold for 52,250. We don't want to rob the, Vatican of its Hebrew Rible, which, we are told, Pope Julius II refused to sell for its weight in gold, which, we are told, Pope Julius II refused to sell for its weight in gold, which, we will amount to £103,000, nor with selected and in most cases are alto-gentler and for a subject density of the minutes observed and the provinces of Great Britain and all other can disched makes herself manifest in Chio and Michagan, and so so soon as the Rocky mountains are crossed and the care crossed and the Rocky mountains are crossed and the Rocky mountains are crossed and the provinces of Great Britain and all other can disched makes herself manifest in Chio and Michagan, and so so soon as the Rocky mountains are crossed and the provinces of Great Britain and all other can dender the province of the Gentle Michagan, and so soon as the Rocky mountains are crossed and the provinces of Great Britain and all other countries, one team each from the foliowing: A.—The require countries, one team each from the Rocky mountains are cross library committee of the Senate. We don't expect, in our demand for a city library, to contend with the British Museum nor the Lenox library for rare books, "costing a mint of money." No "Psalmorum Codex,"—whatever that is—printed in 1457 at Mentz, by Faust & Schaeffer, and sold at Sir John Thorald's sale in 1881 for 64,960, nor a Mazarine Bible costing 53,000. A modern "Decamerone of Boccaccio" will, if expurgated, do for us, and not one printed in Venice in 1471, and sold for £2,260. We don't want to rob the Vatican of its Hebrew Bible, which, we are told, Pope Julius II refused to sell for its weight in gold, which would amount to £103,000, nor with Senator Brice for Groliers or hand-painted illustrations.

gether misunderstood.

TABLE DECORATIONS.

The Newest Development in Table Lines and Table Embellishments.

llustrations.

We will be content with almost as small a We will be content with almost as small a beginning as the library founded at Ames, Ohlo, in 1812, and known as the "Coonskin Library." The fund which supplied the books was obtained by the sale of coonskins to the amount of \$73, which was expended in Boston for books, and brought in a sack on horseback to Ohlo, and it is said: "This library, with so small a commencement, exercised a very wide influence." Small beginnings will, in time, produce large results. Harvard library has grown since the days of John Harvard, and his modest bequest of his own library of 162 volumes into one of the best in the country, and contains over 300,000 volumes. There are scattered all through Paris free municipal lending libraries. There are, or were some years ago, over fifty of them. They are adapted to the district where they are located. They all have reading rooms, and not only are books supplied, but music are located. They all have reading rooms, and not only are books supplied, but music and drawings are loaned, and it is of record that they are promptly returned unmutilated. The benefits of a great public library cannot be overestimated. The benefit extends to all classes of society, and there is not a city in the Union where it is so sadly needed nor where it could accomplish so much good as

pouch and pigeon hole is relaabled the work of the termination of the

"the hey-day in the blood is tame, it's hum-ble and waits upon the judgment." It was so wanting in diplomacy, and he was, if anything, a diplomat.

I am indebted to Mr. Robert Beall for a anything, a diplomat.

I am indebted to Mr. Robert Beall for a copy of a collection of play bills of the London theaters running back to 1319 and brought down to 1863. The names that have made the history of the London stage immortal are in this little work commented on most agreeably, and among them names familiar to us are recalled and incidents in their early career chronicled. Mademoiselle Celeste, who was so well known here, is billed for the "French Spy" in 1828 at the New Theater, Tottenham street, and I find in a play bill sent me by an old theater goer of Brown's Amphitheater, Thursday, March 4, 1839, the announcement of the first appearance of Mr. Jefferson ("Old Jeff" of course) and "the first night of the second re-engagement of M'lles Celeste and Constance" (her sister). Celeste appears in the "Mountain Robbers" as Julletta, a dumb girl, and in "a Krand display of French dancing" with her sister Constance. There are "splendid feats of horsemanship, flying cord, by Mr. Mennich, grand entre and still vaulting by the company." and whole to conclude with the comedy of "Charles II in the Merry Monarch," Capt. Copp. Mr. Jefferson.

An Old Theater.

Brown's Amphitheater was on C street.

Third Battalion Went Into Camp

this after his disagreement with Macready. He was too great an actor to be jealous to faction. Mr. Crerar directs in his will that the residue of his estate, after paying bequests to charities under the direction of the Presbyterian Church, and to some friends and relatives, the sum of \$2,500,000 he set aside for the erection and maintenance of a public library in the city of Chicago. He directs in his will that in the selection of the books for the same the creation of a healthy moral and Christian sentment be kept in view, and that "all nastiness and immorality be excluded."

This would exclude Zola and that tribe of recent erratic writers of our day, male and female.

I would plead for some of "Ouida's"

this after his disagreement with Macready. He was too great an actor to be jealous to fany one.

The bill for Monday, February 20, 1854. The will was adduced in evidence, a child, Miss Robertson." The writer says: "It was not the five participating in the individual matches Robertson." The writer says: "It was not the five participating in the individual matches and the giving of their moral support to the home teams. How many will be in the detachment when it leaves this city on the morning of Saturday, August 12, is not clearly established yet, but it looks as sume successfully youthful parts. It is sume successfully, but persist in exhibiting their they are growing old, so few grow old gracefully, but persist in exhibiting their they are growing old, so few grow old gracefully, but persist in exhibiting their they are growing old, so few grow old gracefully, but persist in exhibiting their they are growing old, so few grow old gracefully and the tribe of recent erratic writers of our day, male and the convince some actresses that they are growing old, so few grow old gracefully and the tribe of recent erratic Robertson." The writer says: "It was not easy, until this bill was adduced in evidence, to convince the Mrs. Kendal of a later day that she had ever made this debut at all." Mrs. Kendal received some kindly hints from the American journals that she was rather too matronly to assume successfully youthful parts. It is very hard to convince some actresses that they are growing old, so few grow old gracefully, but persist in exhibiting their mature charms robed in youthful garbs, until some cruelly candid critic announces the fact which an audience kindly overlooks for awhile.

THE AMERICAN GIRL.

What an English Editor Thinks of Uncle Sam's Pretty Daughters.

From the London Telegraph.

We shall never have a thoroughly artistic series of studies of the American girl from English pens and pencils until be much less practice tann has been will be much less practice. girl from English pens and pencils until

> home range.
> Old team men will be pleased to know that Capt. H. H. Parmenter, the second regiment's quartermaster, will do quartermaster duty for the detachment. can character who deciare that the genuine American girl is only to be met with in New England—that is to say, in the

Distances, 200, 500 and 600 yards. Rounds, seven at each distance. Position, standing at 200 yards; any at 500 and 600 yards. Weapons, any military rifle which has been adopted, authorized or issued as an official arm by any state or government. Ammunition, any. Entrance fee, \$2 each man. Prize.—A trophy, presented by Mr. Henry Hilton of New York, to be shot for annually, at Creedmoor or such other range as the National Rifle Association of America shall select, to be held during the year by the head of the corps or organization whose team may win it, to be returned to the N. R. A. at the expiration thereof; value, \$3,000. Also a medal to each member of the winning team.

Won in 1878 and 1879 by New York 1878.

From the New York Sun.

The sentiment of the old-time lavender—scented linen chest, with all its forms and observances, which in the old-fashioned days was the poetry of every wife's house-keeping, has lost its meaning. But in its place there is an increasing and wholesome interest in the tablecloth, its duties, decorative qualities, and all its little accessories, which are quite as significant factors in the modern matron's life. The

factors in the modern matron's life. The factors in the modern matron's life. The pattern of the table damask and the decoration of the dinner table are important questions in every well-regulated household. The old monotony of simple little sprays and flowers has given way to modern conventionalized forms and flowers devised and arranged with an artistic knowledge, full of charming variety. In these progressive days the texture, occasion, and association of a tablecloth must be considered in the design. The pattern may be simplicity itself, but a serious subject must be shunned like the plague.

The latest development in modern application of decorative intelligence to linent is the employment of skilled artists to appropriate designs. One of the case appropriate designs. One of the case appropriate designs. One of the case appropriate designs are utilized and blended with the subscription price of your less than a stable and stables, hold in the pet fancy of the aesthetic hostess. And the side and sain abominations, in all the incongruous superfunction of the content of the tablecloth with an activation of the congruous superfunction of the content of the stables of lace and employment of the tablecloth and the side and sain abominations, in all the incongruous superfunction of the content of the stables of lace and employment of the tablecloth and the side and sain abominations, in all the pet fancy of the aesthetic hostess. And the side and sain abominations, in all the pet fancy of the aesthetic hostess. And the side and sain abominations, in all the pet fancy of the aesthetic hostess. And the side and sain abominations, in all the pet fancy of the aesthetic hostess. And the side and sain abominations, in all the pet fancy of the aesthetic hostess. And the side and sain abominations, in all the pet fancy of the aesthetic hostess. And the side and sain abominations, in all the pet fancy of the aesthetic hostess. And the side and sain abominations, in all the pet fancy of the aesthetic hostess. And the pet fancy of the aesthetic hostess. And the pe state military match, which is open to one pattern of the table damask and the decoration of the dinner table are important questions in every well-regulated house-hold. The old monotony of simple little team from each state or territory in the

sylvania.

This match will also be disposed of on August 18. Now Held by the First Regiment.

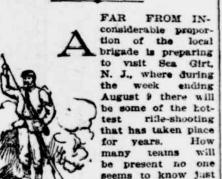
Prior to the before mentioned competitions, and especially interesting to Washington because the first regiment team ington because the first regiment team has been the victor for two successive years, is the regimental team match. This is open to teams of six from the regimental, battation and separate company organizations of the National Guard of the following states: New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, Massachusetts, District of Columbia and New Jersey. The match will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, August 17 and 18; the known distance firing—ten shots at 200 yards and ten shots at 500 yards—on Wednesday, the skirmishing—two runs of twenty rounds each—on Thursday, Each team will consist of six men.

In the individual matches Washing-

FEATURES OF THE JERSEY PROGRAM

Today at Marshall Hall

NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST.



Today—when the third battallon went to Marshall Hall—the encampment season was fairly opened. With the third went combany A, sixth battallon, On August 5 there will be some of the bottest rifle-shooting that has taken place for years. How many teams will be present no one seems to know just now, but the District of Columbia is going to be represented in fine shape, for it will back a brigade team, at team each from the first and second regiments, the engineer corps and the sixth battallon is going to Atlantic City in August 1 to these organizations. Notes,

ments, the engineer corps and the sixth battalion. In addition to these organizations there will be several members of the guard who desire to participating in the individual matches of the first of the detachment to Sea Girt, but whose names are not on the brigade or many all its own the brigade or many all the matches of the individual matches of the individual matches of the participation on the part of the regiments, for some accounts of the regiments of the participation of the regiments of the participation of the transmission of the country of the transmission of the participation of the transmission of the participation o countrymen recognize the fact that American girls from English pens and pencils until our countrymen recognize the fact that American girls differ physically and characteristically among themselves quite as widely, if not even more widely, than English girls do. In the Union multitudes of girls may be met with who are almost Germans or almost Irish in blood. Half Swedish, half Spanish South Americans, haif Italian types of femininity are almost continually met with, and, indeed, there are skillful students of American character who deciare that the genuine American stell content of the pense of the brigade. To encourage their rifle-practice zeal they will be provided with twenty gratuitous rounds each day, but whatever they need beyond that figure they must purchase at the regular price; something they would have to do for every round were they shooting on the home range.

lowing: A.—The regular army. B.—The militia. C.—The volunteers. D.—The navy of the country. Separate teams may be sent out when the organizations are separate.

The members of each team to be officers or enlisted men, and active members of the corps or organization which they represent, and to appear in the authorized uniform (full dress or fatigue) thereof. They shall be selected in such manner as shall be prescribed by the military authorities of the country or state they represent, and shall, if required, be certified to by them as being their authorized representatives.

Distances, 200, 500 and 600 yards. Rounds, seven at each distance. Position, standing at 200 yards; any at 500 and 600 yards. Seven at each distance and 600 yards. Weapons, any military rifle which has been adopted, authorized or issued as an official arm by any state or government. Ammunition, any. Entrance fee, \$2 each man.

Prize.—A trophy, presented by Mr. Henry

Next in point of importance is the inter-

Individual Matches.

A FLY CLIMBS A WALL.

trance fee, \$1, or three tickets for \$2, if taken at one time.

The Wimbledon cup match is also going to be patronized quite liberally by some of

The Wimbledon cup match is also going to be patronized quite liberally by some of the local sharps. It is open to all citizens and residents of the United States. Distance, 1,000 yards. Thirty shots. Weapon, any rifle within the rules; cleaning allowed. Position, any without artificial rest. Entrance fee, 2. Priza, the Wimbledon cup. Presented by the National Rifle Association of Great Britain to the National Rifle Association of America.

Going Under Canvas.

The following, from the pen of N. A. Jen nings, is a capital illustration of he writers can fill space and make much out of little, if they want to and are allowed: Once upon a time there was a city of-itor who said to a green reporter who had brought in a piece of news to the newspa per office: "Write a column about it." "But," said the reporter, "I haven't ma-

of Great Britain to the National Rifle Association of America, to be competed for on conditions to be decided upon by the National Rifle Association of America, and to be held by the winner till the next fall meeting, when it will be shot for on the same conditions. Value, 500. It was won in 1879 by C. H. Laird, now first lieutenant and inspector of rifle proctice for the second battalion. He will try to win it again. A few may enter the Scheutzen match, but that sprt of a competition is not popular among military men; it is for fine rifles. On the program is the Columbia trophy match. This trophy was a goodwill offering from the D. C. N. G. to the National Guard of New Jersey, and no gift was ever more highly appreciated. Teams of six men terial enough for a column." The city editor looked up with a pecu llar expression in his eyes and said. gravely: "When you have been in the business as

long as I have you can write a column about a fly crawling up a blank wall." The reporter turned that over in his mind for a week. Then he sat down and wrote: "A fly crawled up a blank wall." more highly appreciated. Teams of six men from each Jersey regiment run four skir-mish runs each before the prize is won. It is one of the most exciting competitions of Ten years later the reporter sat at a desk with many blank sheets of paper be fore him, and he wrote this story: It was only a plain, ordinary little house-fly, just such a fly as one can see by the thousands any summer's day. He had the six little black, hairy legs, with the six lit-

Dr. M. F. Gallagher was favorably re-ported on the board of surgeons. Dr. Gal-lagher will be surgeon of the fourth bat-talion as soon as the President returns from Buzzard's Bay. walking.

The fly gazed at the bowlder with an expression of doubt in one or two hundred of his eyes, and his trunk curied and uncuried rapidly, which is a fly's way of showing that he is perplexed.

To the immediate right of the bowlder was a little brown patch. It stuck out from the wall quite as high as the bowlder, perhaps a hundredth part of ah inch higher. It was a little tuft of cow hain, such as plasterers mix with mortar and gravel to

The brigade board of examination will report on half a dozen candidates within the coming week. The Ubiquitous Microbe. From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Dr. Manfredi has been announcing some disquieting facts concerning the omnipres-

oughfare of a crowded city he has found a veritable jungle, a tangled and impenetrals thicket, dangerous to delicate wings are containing sharp-pointed branches while might put out thirty-five or forty of his eythousand million microbes to a gramme of dust, and in the dirtiest streets 5,000,000,000 per gramme. A large number of diseaseproducing microbes were found amongst these, the number of such morbific germs being directly proportional to the aggregate number of microbes. Of forty-two cases in which he inoculated guinea pigs with Nea-politan dust, he detected the tubercle ba-cilli (the germ of consumption) in three, the bacillus of pus in eight, the bacillus of teta-nus in two, the bacillus of malignant oedema in four, and other fatal bacilli. A medical paper suggests that the streets of American cities should be tested for

to go backward. He went back half an inch. Then he waved his about in the air as though he were

to go backward. He went backward for half an inch. Then he waved his proboscis about in the air as though he were scenting something.

The fly started on again, walked a quarter of an inch and again stopped. The man watching him smelled the wall at other places a few feet away. At last, after he had done this for four or five minutes, he made a discovery. He smelled turgentine on the wall. The painters who had been there that day must have accidentally spattered turpentine on the wall. Flies detest turpentine, and they won't go near it if they can help it. The fly was afraid to sir for fear he would run into the turpentine. He wasn't quite sure in what direction it was. He scratched his head with his forefeet again and cocitated. Then he folded his wings more closely to his body, his head sank a little lower than he usually carried it, his legs—all but the suckers on his feet—relaxed, and he went to sleep. He would sleep there till the odor of the turpentine should have passed away.

He had climbed up thirteen and a half inches, had receded half an inch and had made up a quarter of an inch of the lost ground. He was therefore just thirteen and a quarter inches from the starting point and six feet ten and three-quarter inches from his destination.

Supposing that the fly should have as many adventures during the rest of his journey as he had already had, it would take, say, six and a half times as much space to describe them as has been so far devoted to him. Then his behavior when he arrived at the celling, the surmises as to why he wanted to get there at all, and why, being a fly, he had started to walk instead of flying, would surely use up a good half column. Why, that fly was worth a page of any newspaper.

Files have been known to sleep all winter, and this happened in October. Besides the man went out of town. Until he returns and begins to watch that fly again—that is, if the fly is still there—it will be impossible to finish this story. If the man ever does come back and finds the fly, and the fly wakes A Jersey Tragedy; or, a Life Preserver That

fly wakes up and starts on his journe again, and the paper and pencil hold on the story may be published as a serial an later in book form. It must stop here fo the present.

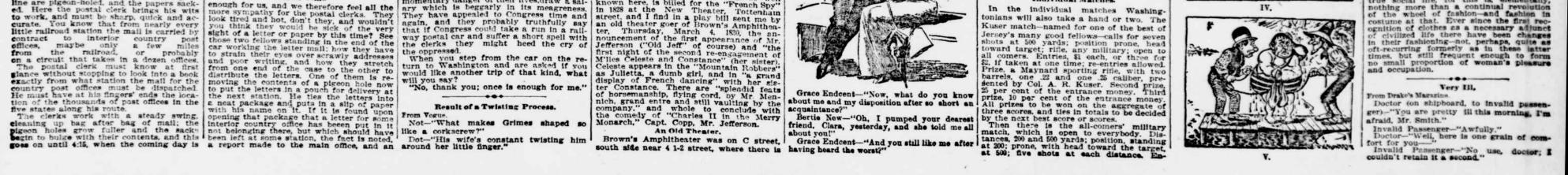
According to the moralists the love of



of American cities should be tested for microbes, and is confident that in many of them a harvest as rich in variety and deadliness as was garnered in Napies could

his experiments the oft-taught lesson that in time of epidemics, the most scrupulous cleanliness is the best safe-guard.





dress has been and is still quite as fruitful a source of evil as the love of money. In fact feminine vanity, as manifested in the extravagance of feminine costume, is popularly considered to be responsible for a large proportion of the troublous times on which the world has fallen during its chequered existence. Whether or not the moralists are correct in their deductions is—and probably will ever be a mooted question, but no thoughtful person who has ever reflected upon the matter at all will deny that woman's dress has ever played

ever reflected upon the matter at all will deny that woman's dress has ever played a very considerable part in the fortunes of the human family.

Primarily, of course, feminine vanity is responsible for extravagances of costume, though with it is inextricably intermingled that innate love of beauty of form and color which goes so far toward making up the artistic temperament, and which the woman of refined instincts possesses in a remarkable degree. Love of personal adornment is a natural concomitant of a healthy woman, and is found in Eve's daughters everywhere, irrespective of nationality, age or condition. Whether it betrays itself in the jauntily knotted kerechief and tawdry beads of the passangirl or in the diamond tiara and nodding plumes of the aristocratic court beauty the characteristic is the same, and woman is woman still, all the world over.

In itself the love of dress is but another phase of the love of art, and therein of all that is most beautiful and worthy of admiration. Without it there could be no true social life, for this is, elementally, nothing more than a continual revolution of the wheel of fashion—and fashion in costume at that. Ever since the first recognition of clothes as a necessary adjunct of civilized life there have been changes in their fashioning—not, perhaps, quite as oft-recurring formerly as in these latter times, but still frequent enough to form no small proportion of woman's pleasure and occupation.